

BOOK REVIEWS

THE DIAGNOSIS OF HYSTERIA. By D. W. Abse, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.M., Assistant, Department of Psychiatry, Charing Cross Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$2.00.

This small book of 112 pages represents "substantially the contents . . . accepted by the University of Wales as a thesis for the degree of M.D. in 1948." The author feels that the book is a review of the subject of hysteria, which will be of special value to those in Great Britain preparing for the Diploma in Psychological Medicine in the United Kingdom and for those preparing for the M.D. in Psychological Medicine of the Medical Schools in India.

The book in general is a summary of our present knowledge of hysteria with some historical material indicating how these formulations have finally been achieved. The author relies heavily on the orthodox psychoanalytic approach. From the standpoint of the Freudians, however, the formulations appear rather superficial. The claim is made that all hysteria is due to conflict over sex, and great emphasis is laid upon the oedipus complex. A number of case histories are given. It cannot be said that this book adds anything to our knowledge of the subject of hysteria. It gives a brief history of the development of the various ideas that have been held as to the cause of hysteria beginning with Plato and ending up with Freud. Charcot and Janet are given rather more credit than is done by most of the followers of Freud. Jung likewise is quoted a number of times.

The book is clearly and interestingly written and does summarize a good deal of the knowledge that we have about hysteria. Properly the author insists that the diagnosis of hysteria should be on a positive basis and not purely on the basis of negative medical examination.

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PHYSICIANS FEDERAL INCOME TAX GUIDE AND SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTING RECORD. By Hugh Campbell and James B. Liberman. For the preparation of 1950 returns and 1951 estimates. Doniger and Raughley, Inc., Great Neck, New York, 1950. \$2.50.

"Physicians Federal Income Tax Guide and Simplified Accounting Record" is well written, and in non-technical terms that may easily be understood by physicians, for whom the book was intended.

"Non-Taxable Income, Professional Deductions, and Personal Deductions" are clearly set forth in the beginning of the book, together with a 1951 Tax Calendar. One section is devoted to a general discussion on how to use the book; a second section to the actual filling out of the income tax return; a section on the declaration of estimated tax; one on the physician as an employer; and the last on the simplified accounting record.

With careful study of this book, the physician should not have any difficulty in preparing his Federal Income Tax Return, as this book covers every problem that he is likely to encounter.

The "Simplified Accounting Record," however, appears to have been over-simplified, and certainly does not take the place of adequate detailed financial records, as it is a mere summary and is usually a part of any "log" or "daily record."

The use of additional examples and the keying-in of the text material to the completed specimen return which is included in Chapter 25 would have improved the book.

LORD LISTER, HIS LIFE AND DOCTRINE. By Douglas Guthrie. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$3.50.

A small, 128-page book acknowledges a considerable debt to Lister's biography by his nephew, Sir Rickman Godlee, but is supplemented by additional material from other associates and confreres. Following graduation at University College in London, his activities in successive academic posts are carried through Edinburgh, Glasgow, then back to Edinburgh and finally to London at Kings College Hospital. His persistence in the face of criticism, misinterpretation and active opposition to his work without the development of bitterness, and above all his humility and teachableness are emphasized.

The chapters dealing with the justification of his scientific work up to the final ones covering his relationship to Pasteur and Koch include his American trips. One wishes that the details of his visit to San Francisco were given.

Altogether this little volume is most readable and particularly suitable for the overburdened medical student because of its compactness. Its inclusion of the essentials of Lister's scientific efforts and of his high personal qualities cannot fail to stimulate and afford a pattern to all.

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NON - GONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS—Including the Genital Manifestations of Local and Systemic Diseases and Infestations of the Urinary Tract with Protozoa, Metazoa and Fungi. By A. H. Harkness, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Joint Director of the Endell Street Clinic, St. Peter's and St. Paul's Hospital (Institute of Urology); Vice-President (Past President) of the British Society for the Study of Venereal Disease. 167 Illustrations, 73 in Full Color. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$10.00.

Harkness' book is an encyclopedia of the subject of urethritis. The entire field of non-gonococcal infections of the urethra, a subject about which little is generally known, is covered in a comprehensive, scholarly manner.

The problem of treating these cases has recently become more prominent. The incidence of gonorrhea has decreased greatly since the advent of penicillin, with an apparent increase in non-gonococcal urethritis, which makes this book timely. This change is partly due to the increased number of cases of non-gonococcal discharge, revealed after specific therapy for gonorrhea, that previously have been resolved unnoticed during the long irrigation treatment.

Non-gonococcal urethritis has been a baffling and often mistreated disease in our armed forces. This volume will be welcomed by our medical officers, as heretofore this type of urethritis was so long drawn out and so unsatisfactory to treat and caused so much worry that occasionally even the psychiatrist was consulted.

The book is well written, and the subject matter is dealt with thoroughly. The non-gonococcal agents causing urethritis—food, water, protozoa, fungi, diabetes, pellagra and the "L" organism, are baffling in their number and variety. A number of chapters covering such diseases as diphtheritic urethritis and Reiter's disease are all-inclusive monographs. The etiology, bacteriology, diagnosis and treatment are discussed completely, and all chapters are followed by a full bibliography.

This single volume is of a size easy to handle, printed with clear type on glossy paper. There are 167 illustrations, 73 in full color, most of which are good and clearly depict their